

CLAIMS

We claim:

5 1. A filtering apparatus comprising a pressure vessel having a feed connection and a
filtrate connection, and at least one capillary filtration membrane module, said membrane
module having a length and comprising an inlet coupled with the feed connection, an outlet
coupled with the filtrate connection, and a filter housing defining a membrane compartment
accommodating a bundle of capillary filtration membranes, and said capillary filtration
membranes being cased at both ends of the membrane module in membrane holders, wherein at
10 least one of the membrane modules comprises at least one feed-through conduit extending
substantially in the longitudinal direction throughout the length of the membrane module,
wherein walls of said feed-through conduit comprise an impermeable material, and wherein
filtration flow occurs radially from inside each capillary filtration membrane to outside each said
15 capillary filtration membrane.

2. A filtering apparatus according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said feed-
through conduits comprises a pipe located inside the membrane compartment.

20 3. A filtering apparatus according to claim 1 additionally comprising a feed-through
conduit annularly surrounding the membrane compartment.

4. A filtering apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of membrane
modules in fluid serial connection.

5. A filtering apparatus according to claim 3 wherein walls of the annular feed-through conduit are formed by the filter housing and a wall of the pressure vessel.

5 6. A filtering apparatus according to claim 5 additionally comprising spacers between the wall of the pressure vessel and the filter housing.

7. A filtering apparatus according to claim 1 wherein walls of said feed-through conduit comprise a rigid material with a smooth surface.